UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/810,766	03/26/2004	Geoffrey R. Kruse	M61.12-0629	9088

27366   7590   10/16/2007
WESTMAN CHAMPLIN (MICROSOFT CORPORATION)
SUITE 1400
900 SECOND AVENUE SOUTH
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-3319

EXAMINER
CAO, PHUONG THAO

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2164	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
10/16/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/810,766	KRUSE ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Phuong-Thao Cao	2164	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>10 August 2007</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1,4-18 and 20-23</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1, 4-18 and 20-23</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

PTOL-326 (Rev. 08-06)   Office Action Summary   Part of Paper No./Mail Date 20071005

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This action is in response to the Amendment filed on 8/10/2007

2.   Claim 18 has been amended, and claims 2, 3 and 19 were previously cancelled.

Currently, claims 1, 4-18 and 20-23 are pending.

Response to Amendment

3.   Amendment to claim 18 is effective to overcome the 112 rejection in the previous office

action. Therefore, the previous 112 rejection with respect to claim 18 has been withdrawn.

Response to Arguments/Remarks

4.   Regarding Applicant's remark with respect to the interview summary mailed on

6/26/2007 addressing the interview on May 15, 2007 regarding a Final Office action mailed on

4/6/2007, Examiner respectfully apologizes for not specifying the discussion during the

interview. The discussion in the interview on May 15, 2007 was directed to the proper status of

the Final Office action mailed 4/6/2007. Based on what was discussed in the previous interview

in 11/7/2006 and actually stated in the interview summary mailed on 11/13/2006 that

combination of claims 2 and 3 to claim 1 would distinguish the claimed invention, an argument

was made against the final status of the office action mailed on 4/6/2007. Examiner found the

argument was persuasive and decided to withdrawn the finality of the rejection and resend the

office action as Non-Final.

5.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 4-18 and 20-23 have been considered but

are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

7.   This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the

claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various

claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any

evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out

the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later

invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c)

and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

8.   Claims 1, 4-18 and 20-22 (effective filing date 3/26/2004) are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Collins (US Publication No 2002/0065744, published

on 5/30/2002) in view of Thompson et al. (US Patent No 6,668,253, effective filing date

9/8/1999).

As to claim 1, Collins teaches:

"A computer system that includes components stored on a tangible medium" (see Collins,

[0011] and Fig. 1), the components comprising:

"a uniform interface configured to receive a generalized request from a report object and,

based upon information included in the generalized request, access data from a database and

return the accessed data to the report object" (see Collins, [0036], [0039] and Fig. 2 wherein the

Differentiator Engine is interpreted as Applicant's "uniform interface", Web server generating

web page to report information with respect to user's request is interpreted as Applicant's "report

object", and a request sent from Web server and including customer-selected product ID and its

parameters is interpreted as Applicant's "generalized request"),

"wherein at least one staging table, having a standardized structure which is independent

of a structure of the database, is utilized by the uniform interface to store at least a portion of the

accessed data" (see Collins, [0039] for temporary table which is interpreted as Applicant's

"staging table"),

"wherein the uniform interface is further configured to access the data from the database

by translating the generalized request into a specific query which, upon execution, populates the

at least one staging table with the accessed data" (see Collins, [column 39] and Fig 2), and

"wherein the uniform interface is further configured to query the at least one staging table

to retrieve the accessed data and to return the accessed data to the report object after execution of

the specific query that populates the at least one staging table" (see Collins, [0040] and Fig. 3).

However, Collins does not teach the database as a general ledger database.

On the other hand, Thompson et al. teach a general ledger database (see Thompson et al.,

[column 25, lines 29-33]).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to have modified the system of Collins by the teaching of Thompson et al.

by modifying the system of Collins to use with the general ledger database. Skilled artisan

would have been motivated to do so as suggested by Collins, [0038] to provide user with

automated service providing information (i.e., reporting) driven by their interests. Accessing and

reporting data from a general ledger database using the modified system of Collins would be

more effective in terms of reporting driven by user's interests.

As to claim 4, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 1

and is similarly rejected including the following:

Collins and Thompson et al. teach:

"wherein the at least one staging table is an account code table" (see Thompson et al.,

[column 25, lines 44-47] for Account Tables).

As to claim 5, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 1

and is similarly rejected including the following:

Collins and Thompson et al. teach:

"wherein at least one staging table is an account balance staging table" (see Thompson et

al., [column 25, lines 60-65] for Financial Account Balance Table).

As to claim 6, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 1

and is similarly rejected including the following:

Collins and Thompson et al. teach:

"wherein the at least one staging table is a column filter staging table" (see Thompson et

al., [column 11, lines 9-12] for a list of predefined query filters which is equivalent to

Applicant's "column filter staging table").

As to claim 7, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 1

and is similarly rejected including the following:

Collins and Thompson et al. teach:

"wherein the generalized request includes at least one natural account is translated into at

least one account code, which is stored in an account balance staging table" (see Thompson et

al., Fig. 25A for account sequence which is equivalent to Applicant's "account code").

As to claim 8, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 7

and is similarly rejected including the following:

Collins and Thompson et al. teach:

"wherein the specific query, into which the generalized request is translated by the uniform interface, comprises a single sequential query language (SQL) statement that joins the account staging table with a balance table of the general ledger database, such that balance information for an entire report column can be retrieved by execution of the single SQL statement" (see Thompson et al., [column 31, lines 35-60]).

As to claim 9, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 8 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Collins and Thompson et al. teach:

"wherein the balance information comprises current balance amounts for each account code in the account staging table" (see Thompson et al., [column 25, lines 60-65] wherein each of GL accounts is equivalent to Applicant's "account code" and account balances is equivalent to Applicant's "balance amounts", and Fig. 25C for balance amount item).

As to claim 10, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 8 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Collins and Thompson et al. teach:

"wherein the balance information comprises year-to-date balance amounts for each account code in the account staging table" (see Thompson et al., [column 30-35 and 60-65] wherein each of GL accounts is equivalent to Applicant's "account code" and account balances is equivalent to Applicant's "balance amounts", and Fig. 25C for EOY beginning balance and EOY ending balance which is equivalent to Applicant's "year-to-date balance").

As to claim 11, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 8 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Collins and Thompson et al. teach:

"wherein the generalized request further comprises account filter criteria, and wherein a WHERE clause of the single SQL statement is configured to include the account filter criteria" (see Thompson et al., [column 10, lines 1-15 and 40-45] and [column 26, lines 30-40 for the function of filtering information including financial information).

As to claim 12, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Collins and Thompson et al. teach:

"wherein the generalized request includes at least one natural account and account filter criteria, and wherein, with the help of the uniform interface, the at least one natural account is translated into at least one account code, which is stored in an account balance staging table, and wherein account codes that match the account filter criteria are stored in a column filter staging table" (see Thompson et al., Fig. 25A for account sequence which is equivalent to Applicant's "account code", and see [column 11, lines 9-15] and [column 10, lines 1-15] for filtering information and see [column 25, lines 20-60] and Fig. 25A for account number which is equivalent to Applicant's "natural account" and account sequence which is equivalent to Applicant's "account code").

As to claim 13, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 12 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Collins and Thompson et al. teach:

"wherein the specific query, into which the generalized request is translated by the uniform interface, comprises a single sequential query language (SQL) statement that joins the account staging table with the column filter staging table and with a balance table of the general ledger database, such that balance information for an entire report column can be retrieved by execution of the single SQL statement" (see Thompson et al., [column 26, lines 30-45] and [column 31, lines 35-45] for ability to combine the financial information which is equivalent to Applicant's "joins").

As to claim 14, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 13 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Collins and Thompson et al. teach:

"wherein the balance information comprises current balance amounts for each account code in the account staging table" (see Thompson et al., [column 25, lines 30-35 and 60-65] wherein each of GL accounts is equivalent to Applicant's "account code" and account balances is equivalent to Applicant's "balance amounts", and Fig. 25C for balance amount item).

As to claim 15, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 13 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Collins and Thompson et al. teach:

"wherein the balance information comprises year-to-date balance amounts for each

account code in the account staging table" (see Thompson et al., [column 30-35 and 60-65]

wherein each of GL accounts is equivalent to Applicant's "account code" and account balances

is equivalent to Applicant's "balance amounts", and Fig. 25C for EOY beginning balance and

EOY ending balance which is equivalent to Applicant's "year-to-date balance").

As to claim 16, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 1

and is similarly rejected including the following:

Collins and Thompson et al. teach:

"wherein the at least one staging table is a temporary table" (see Thompson et al.,

[column 25, lines 15-17] wherein a Summary Temporary Table is a temporary staging table).

As to claim 17, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 1

and is similarly rejected including the following:

Collins and Thompson et al. teach:

"wherein the at least one staging table is a permanent table" (see Thompson et al.,

[column 25, lines 17-22] wherein a Summary (permanent) Table is a permanent staging table).

As to claim 18, Collins teach:

"A computer implemented method of retrieving data, from a database, to satisfy a

generalized request from a report object" (see Collins, [0036], [0039] and Fig. 2 wherein Web

server generating web page to report information with respect to user's request is interpreted as

Applicant's "report object", and a request sent from Web server and including customer-selected.

product ID and its parameters is interpreted as Applicant's "generalized request"), comprising:

"receiving the generalized request from the report object" (see Collins, [0039] and Fig. 2

wherein the Differentiator Engine receives a generalized request from Web server);

"accessing, based on information included in the generalized request, data from the

database" (see Collins, [0039]),

"utilizing at least one staging table, having a standardized structure which is independent

of a structure of the database, to store at least a portion of the accessed data on a tangible

medium before it is returned to the report object from the staging table" (see Collins, [0039]

wherein temporary table is interpreted as staging table).

However, Collins does not teach the database as a general ledger database.

On the other hand, Thompson et al. teach a general ledger database (see Thompson et al.,

[column 25, lines 29-33]).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to have modified the system of Collins by the teaching of Thompson et al.

by modifying the system of Collins to use with the general ledger database. Skilled artisan

would have been motivated to do so as suggested by Collins, [0038] to provide user with

automated service providing information (i.e., reporting) driven by their interests. Accessing and

reporting data from a general ledger database using the modified system of Collins would be

more effective in terms of reporting driven by user's interests.

As to claim 20, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim

18 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Collins and Thompson et al. teach:

"wherein the at least one staging table is a temporary table" (see Thompson et al.,

[column 25, lines 15-17] wherein a Summary Temporary Table is a temporary staging table).

As to claim 21, Collins teaches:

"A computer system that includes components stored on a tangible medium" (see Collins,

[0011] and Fig. 1), the components comprising:

"a uniform interface configured to receive a generalized request from a report object and,

based upon information included in the generalized request, access data from at least one staging

table that stores information from a single database on a tangible medium" (see Collins, [0036],

[0040] and Fig. 3 wherein the Differentiator Engine is interpreted as Applicant's "uniform

interface", Web server generating web page to report information with respect to user's request

is interpreted as Applicant's "report object", and a request sent from Web server and including

parameters is interpreted as Applicant's "generalized request"),

"wherein at least one staging table has a standardized structure which is independent of a

structure of the database" (see Collins, [0039] for temporary table which is interpreted as

Applicant's "staging table").

However, Collins does not teach the database as a general ledger database.

On the other hand, Thompson et al. teach a general ledger database (see Thompson et al.,

[column 25, lines 29-33]).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the system of Collins by the teaching of Thompson et al. by modifying the system of Collins to use with the general ledger database. Skilled artisan would have been motivated to do so as suggested by Collins, [0038] to provide user with automated service providing information (i.e., reporting) driven by their interests. Accessing and reporting data from a general ledger database using the modified system of Collins would be more effective in terms of reporting driven by user's interests.

As to claim 22, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 21 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Collins and Thompson et al. teach:

"wherein the at least one staging table is a permanent staging table" (see Thompson et al., [column 25, lines 17-22] wherein a Summary (permanent) Table is a permanent staging table).

9.   Claim 23 (effective filing date 3/26/2004) is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Collins (US Publication No 2002/0065744, published on 5/30/2002) in view of Thompson et al. (US Patent No 6,668,253, effective filing date 9/8/1999), and further in view of Bakuya et al. (US Patent No 5,680,614 issued on 10/21/1997).

As to claim 23, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 22 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Collins and Thompson et al. teach:

"wherein the permanent staging table is updated by one of SQL statements and database

functions" (see Thompson et al., [column 31, lines 30-30] for accessing data (e.g., update) using

SQL.

However, Collins and Thompson et al. do not teach updating the permanent table is

activated each time the general ledger database is updated.

On the other hand, Bakuya et al. teaches using trigger to update a table, which is

activated when some trigger condition happens (e.g., another table is update) (see Bakuya et al.,

[column 9, lines 50-55]).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Bakuya et al. into the system of Colins and

Thompson et al. Skilled artisan would have been motivated to do so to provide a effective way

to update in the permanent table in accordance with the update of the General Ledger database,

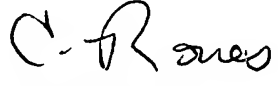as a result, effectively improve the management of valid data in the permanent table.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuong-Thao Cao whose telephone number is (571) 272-2735. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM (Mon - Fri).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on (571) 272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CHARLES RONES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

Phuong-Thao Cao
Art Unit 2164
October 5, 2007